

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The following amendments to the specification refer to paragraphs as numbered in the application as published, Publication No. US 2004/0168324 A1, and not as originally numbered by Applicants in the application as originally filed.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0009]** A cutting implement having a pair of ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades and a titanium chromium nitride coating is also provided. The titanium chromium nitride coating is disposed on each of the cutting blades. The titanium chromium nitride coating has a thickness in a range between about 0.3 and 0.5 microns, a surface roughness in a range of about 15 to 25  $10^{-6}$  inch/inch, and a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0021]** Each blade **22, 26** has a cutting edge **28**. Preferably, cutting edge **28** is formed by way of a bevel **30** disposed on each blade **22, 26**, respectively. Thus, scissors **10** provide a pair of ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades **22, 26** for cutting stationery products, such as paper, cardboard, bristol board, and others.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0045]** Coating **32** having the desired hardness, smoothness, and diffusion barrier properties preferably is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating **32** has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0052]** Blade **120** is disposed in housing **122** opposite blade **118** as illustrated in **FIG. 7**. Blade **120** has a cutting edge **124** formed at its outer periphery, while blade **118** has a corresponding cutting edge **126**. Rotary cutting mechanism **114** is also movably received on rail **116** such that

cutting edges **124, 126** can be moved into contact with one another. Accordingly, trimmer **110** has a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades **118, 120**.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] Blades **118, 120** are preferably made of steel, more preferably stainless steel, such as 420 stainless steel. In addition, blades **118, 120** can be heat-treated to further increase the hardness of the ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] Coating **132** provides the ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades **118, 120** with extremely tough, hard, wear resistant characteristics. This increased hardness provides trimmer **110** with substantially increased longevity, while also providing the trimmer with corrosion resistance, as well as providing a smooth and uniform appearance and color. Coating **132** provides trimmer **110** with an aesthetically acceptable color or appearance and reduces friction between the cutting blades during use.

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] Coating **132** having the desired hardness, smoothness, and diffusion barrier properties preferably is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating **32** has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. Thus, coating **132** provides trimmer **110** with a visual indication that the coating had been applied, without affecting the consumer's impression of the target use of the scissors (i.e., general household use). Moreover, coating **132** provides trimmer **110** with drastically improved hardness over the uncoated trimmers.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] Trimmer **210** has a base **212** and a pivoting cutting mechanism **214**. Base **212** has a fixed cutting blade **216**. Pivoting cutting mechanism **214** has a movable cutting blade **220** pivotally

secured to base **212** at a pivot point **218**. Each blade **216, 220** has a cutting edge **224**.  
Accordingly, trimmer **210** has a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades **216, 220**.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] Cutting blades **216, 220** are preferably made of steel, more preferably stainless steel, such as 420 stainless steel. In addition, cutting blades **216, 220** can be heat-treated to further increase the hardness of the ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades.

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following amended paragraph:

[0064] Coating **232**, like coating **132**, provides the ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades with extremely tough, hard, wear resistant characteristics. This increased hardness provides trimmer **210** with substantially increased longevity, while also providing the trimmer with corrosion resistance, as well as providing a smooth and uniform appearance and color. Coating **232** provides trimmer **210** with an aesthetically acceptable color or appearance and reduces friction between the cutting blades during use.

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] Coating **232**, like coating **132**, can be made of titanium nitride (TiN), chromium nitride (CrN), or titanium chromium nitride (TiCrN). More preferably, coating **232** is a multiple component barrier of titanium chromium nitride. Coating **232** is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating **232** has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals.